THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 34. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH, 1914. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S. :— Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Saturday, Nov. 7th—14 Butcher's Rd., Tidal Basin—Poster Parade at 3.30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 8th, 3 p.m.—Victoria Park—Miss Bouvier, Miss Somers.

8 p.m.—The Women's Hall—Mr. Victor Duval and others.

Monday, Nov. 9th, 3 p.m.—Bow, Women's Hall—Mrs. Bouvier.

8 p.m.—Lesbia Road—Mrs. Bouvier.

8 p.m.—"Peacock," Freemason's Road—Miss Feek.

8 p.m.—East India Dock Gates, Poplar—Mrs. Walker.

Tuesday, Nov. 10th, 2.30 p.m.—30 Churchill Road (indoors)—Mrs. Dove-Wilcox.

7.30 p.m.—Tidal Basin, 14 Butcher's Rd—Mrs. Walker.

8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall, Railway St.—Mrs. Walshe.

Wednesday, Nov. 11th, 8 p.m.—Ford Rd.—Miss Rickards.

8 p.m.—Chrisp St.—Mrs. Davies.

Thursday, Nov. 12th, 3 p.m.—Deacon's Vestry—Mrs. Walker and others.

8 p.m.—Knapp Rd.—Miss Harbutt.

8 p.m.—124 Barking Road—Rev. Cyril Isherwood.

Friday, Nov. 13th, 3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Miss Harley.

8 p.m.—Poplar, Piggott Street—Mrs. Walker.

The Brotherhood Church, Southgate Road, Islington ('bus 21 or 76 from the Bank or Old Street tube station) has organised a regular series of Sunday afternoon conferences for men and women. On November 8th, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst speaks there on "War and the Victimisation of Women." The collection is to be given to the East London Federation of the Suffragettes' Infant Welfare Centres.

E. L. F. S.

A MEETING

Will be held in

CUSTOM HOUSE SCHOOL, Freemasons Rd.,

Friday, Nov. 13th, at 8 p.m.

SPEAKERS:

Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST,

Mrs. WALKER.

Chair: Miss MARY PHILLIPS.

Trams from 'Abbey Arms,' Barking Road, pass door of School.

BABIES' OUTFITS.

We lend necessitous mothers outfits for their babies, for the first months.

With the money subscribed for finding employment, we are getting baby clothes made, and paying unemployed women for making these things. Those who would give money and materials for making baby clothes would help in one of the best possible ways. Gifts of baby clothes can be made good use of, also nightdresses, quilts, blankets and sheets for the mothers. Even old sheets can be cut up for babies' napkins.

Each baby's outfit should consist of:—

FOR BABY.

Four gowns, three flannel barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests and a cot blanket.

FOR MOTHER.

Two night gowns, a woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets and one pair pillowcases.

A WOMAN TOWN CRIER.

Mrs. Blaker of Chertsey has been appointed town crier during the absence of her husband with the Colours.

NEW CENTRES.

The new centre at 14 Butcher's Road, Canning Town, has been started on a small scale. Our milk bill for the three other centres at Bow, Bromley and Poplar, is so heavy that we are obliged to go cautiously.

The Bromley centre has been moved from Crowder's Hall, Bow Road to larger premises at 53 St. Leonard Street, where a restaurant is now open.

THE NURSERY.

The nursery at Norman House, 45 Norman Road, is now open.

The charge for a child's day in the nursery from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., including meals, is 3d.

Volunteers are needed to help in taking the babies out.

SOME OF OUR NURSLINGS.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

Nurse Hebbes has prepared us a chart for infant feeding, and this is published as a free leaflet. Mothers who wish to have it can obtain it at any of our centres.

Our milk bill increases weekly. At Old Ford Road alone, we give upwards of 130 quarts each day. We urgently need subscriptions towards it; also gifts of:—

EGGS.

For invalids and babies who are too ill to digest milk, and are given the white of egg beaten up in water.

ARROWROOT, BARLEY & RICE. BORACIC POWDER, BORACIC LINT, VASELINE, ZINC OINTMENT & BANDAGES, COD LIVER OIL & MALT.

TO SOLDIERS' WIVES.

If you have lost your furniture, sewing machine, or other things you value, through being kept waiting for your separation allowance, you are entitled to compensation from the War Office. Write to us.

The Australian *Woman Voter* has been heavily censored on account of its attitude towards the war. This shows that where women have the vote their opinion carries such weight that extreme measures have to be taken to prevent its expression at "awkward" moments. It will always be awkward to justify war to women.

Christmas Puddings can be ordered at 8d. and 1s. per lb. from Miss Morgan Brown at 400 Old Ford Road, or Mrs. Richmond, 20 Railway Street, Poplar. East London friends may pay for these in weekly instalments, if they wish.

CLOTHING STALLS.

Clothing stalls, where new and second-hand clothes may be bought at very low prices, are open at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, on Fridays and Saturdays, at 20 Railway Street, Poplar on Saturday mornings, and at 53 St. Leonard Street on Fridays and Saturdays. We shall be glad if friends can send us any clothes for these stalls. Boots and shoes are very urgently needed.

All parcels should be sent to 400 Old Ford Road, E., addressed to Miss N. L. Smyth.

GARMENT MAKING.

The East London Federation undertakes the making of women's and children's underclothing, dresses, overalls, and all sorts of garments.

OUR TOY FACTORY.

At the toy factory we make flat wooden toys including boy scouts, girl guides, and animals of all kinds, and costing from 6d. upwards. Our "Brisish Baby" dolls cost 5s. 6d., and "Jap Baby" dolls 7s. 6d. life size; smaller size 3s. 6d. China and Wax headed with stuffed bodies will be ready soon; price 3s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. Dolls' furniture may be had from 6d. a set. Horses, engines and other wooden toys, in the round, are cheap.

Captain Gonne has given us some "Bognor" designs for soldier toys.

Our toys are on show at 400 Old Ford Rd., from November 1st. Price Lists on application.

We urgently need some machinery, in order to be able to do our work more cheaply and effectively. A few hundred pounds of capital just now would be of immense value in building up our toy, garment and bootmaking industries.

OUR BOOT FACTORY.

We have already executed quite a number of orders for our co-operative boot factory, and our customers are delighted.

We can thoroughly recommend the boots which will be made at our co-operative factory. Mr. Payne, who is our manager, has made boots and shoes for many members and officials of the Federation, and these have always beaten the record for wear and comfort. Price list to suit all buyers on application. We make hand-sewn and hand sew-round boots and shoes, special "Sanitary" boots and shoes, and "Natural" shoes for children as well as boots and shoes of all the cheaper kinds.

"PEDDLING" WITH RELIEF.

Last week's WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT giving revelations as to the administration of the Prince of Wales's fund in Poplar, appeared on Friday. It was sent to every member of the Mayor's Local Representative Committee, and its posters: "The Mayor's Mean Scale of Relief" were prominently displayed by newsagents in the Roman Road.

By last post Saturday the Mayor summoned the members of the Local Representative Committee to meet on Wednesday.

The Mayor said that he had received from the Prince of Wales's fund altogether £374 7s. 0d. during a period of nine weeks since the first grant was made. He said he had had "to plead like a cripple at a gate" for the money. This phrase seemed to please him immensely and he repeated it many times.

The Rev. W. H. Hunt asked whether it was outside the scope of the Prince of Wales's fund scheme to give grants of money to the Mayors for the purpose of alleviating distress, (We do not know whether or not this enquiry was intended to be humorous).

Reference was made to the fact that the Mayor's Committee in West Ham had had a grant of £5,000. Mr. Lansbury asked whether the Members of Parliament for that Borough had gone with the Mayor to ask for the money, and so obtained a larger grant. The Mayor said he did not know. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst asked whether there was any reason to suppose that the West Ham Committee had had a grant because they had put forward schemes of work as a basis on which to ask for it. Several Councillors replied that the Poplar Borough Council had sent up schemes for relief but these had not yet been sanctioned.

Miss Susan Lawrence raised the question of the Mayor's own special scale of relief, 4s. for a man, 4s. for a woman and 1s. for each child, which we exposed last week.

She said that in other boroughs relief had been given on the scale adopted by the Local Representative Committee, pending the issuing of the Central Prince of Wales Committee's own scale. She knew that officials connected with the Prince of Wales's Fund had been going round to the districts with the doles of money saying: "Make it last as long as you can." But that, she said, was entirely contrary to the wishes of the Prince of Wales's Fund Committee. She had that day seen Mr. Arthur Henderson and received his assurance of this. Miss Lawrence said that nothing was worse than inadequate relief, and she would have preferred that no relief should be given at all than on the Mayor's scale of 4s. a week for an adult and 1s. for a child.

The majority of those present seemed anxious to hush up this part of the business. They did not like to have the 4s. and 1s. scale referred to, though at one stage of the proceedings Alderman Bussey told the Mayor that he was "peddling" with the question of relief. There was quite a little scene between Mr. Bussey and the Mayor at this point.

The chief discussion of the evening centred around the scale of relief which has been adopted by the Central Committee of the Prince of Wales's Fund, and has been sent to all the Local Representative Committees.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst said that the Poplar Committee had adopted a scale of its own, and that this scale had been most carefully considered and adopted as the lowest possible minimum for the district. She therefore moved that the Poplar Committee adhere to its own scale of relief and refuse to administer to a lower scale. She said that if the

(*Continued on page 136, col. 4.*)

WOMEN! JOIN THE

East London Federation of the Suffragettes —

WE NEED YOU!

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Name.....

Address.....

I enclose 1½d. to cover membership and postage.

I enclose 4s. 4d. for a year's WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Name.....

Address.....

The

Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,

321 ROMAN ROAD, BOW, E.

Telephone EAST 422.

Agents:—INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 11 Adam St., Strand, W.C.; LONDON & SUBURBAN PUBLISHING Co., St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C.; Messrs. HORACE MARSHALL & Co., Temple Avenue, E.C.

Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH and SONS, and Messrs. WILLING.

Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d.

No. 34.—Saturday, Nov. 7th, 1914.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

CALL A TOWN'S MEETING!

Dear Friends,—

As the winter comes upon us and as the time of warfare, ever piling up the enormous cost of ammunition, of transport and the feeding of large masses of men engaged in destructive instead of productive work, lengthens poverty and destitution will increase with us at home.

Already privations are severe, prices are high, and many are reduced to the verge of starving, but these evils will increase, and we must prepare ourselves now to meet them and cope with them effectively.

War was declared in August, this is November, and the Poplar Local Representative Committee has not yet decided *how* the relief shall be administered. Poplar, alas, is not alone is not alone in its inertia.

The Government has put forward a miserably low scale of charitable doles, and in numbers of districts refuses to allow the Prince of Wales's fund to be used for productive work. This rule is not held to in all districts, but in the Borough of Poplar the members of the Borough Council on the Mayor's Committee wish to abide by it.

The difficulties which face us in East London are common, though in varying degrees, to the whole country, and it is certain that, unless more satisfactory means of dealing with distress can be forged out by the constant hammering of those who wish to ensure a decent standard of livelihood for our people, widespread physical deterioration and race degeneration will result.

Ill-paid work and casual employment, with the resultant shortage of the necessaries of civilised life, have set their cruel seal very deeply upon a section of our people—"The Submerged Tenth" they are sometimes called.

The stultifying waves of destitution are rising about us very fast.

We must fight with a will if we mean to keep them back!

An American writer, who came to see me a few months ago, told me he thought that here in East London was the cradle of a new and ennobled English race, a race proud and brave and brotherly and strong.

What can we do, dear friends, to make those words come true?

To begin with can we not call a Town's Meeting to discuss the Local Representative Committee's method of dealing with those of our brothers and sisters who are out of employment and distressed here in the Borough of Bow, Bromley and Poplar?

We should be glad to hear from those who wish to help.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

A LIVING WAGE FOR WOMEN.

We demand that on all work subsidised by public funds adult women shall be paid a minimum wage of 5d. an hour or £1 a week, and that these rates shall be enforced in the execution of all Government contracts.

We demand that the Government take the responsibility for providing work for all women who apply for it—whether they be married or unmarried.

The *Docker's Union News Bulletin* for October 19th echoes our demand, and makes strong protest against the miserably inadequate measures at present taken to cope with unemployment amongst women. It says:—

In many districts the number of women who have registered at Labour Exchanges as unemployed is greater than that of men, but we regret to say that no national effort, except through the Distress Committees and the Queen's "Work for Women Fund," is in operation to secure work for the women. Moreover, the Distress Committee does little or nothing for the unmarried woman living at home. If her father is in work the Distress Committee tells her that he ought to support her, and if he is out of work, well, he ought to get work. Again, the Distress Committees are prevented from finding work for women whose husbands and sons usually support them. This means that the majority of unemployed women will have to go to the Queen's Workrooms where the pay is still less than that given by the Distress Committees. The question of unemployed women workers is becoming more and more acute as the dependents upon the women workers are increasing; that is to say, women breadwinners, are increasing in numbers owing to the number of male breadwinners killed and maimed during the war. The Executive having given the matter consideration, has passed the following resolution, which we shall be glad for our branches to adopt and to forward to the Prime Minister and to the Queen.

"This Executive Council of the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union, calls upon the Government to take into consideration the increasing necessity of providing work for unemployed women. We enter an emphatic protest against the proposal to pay 3d. per hour and a minimum wage of 10s. per week to women employed in the Queen's Workrooms. We claim that the women workers shall be paid at least 5d. per hour or £1 per week, and that Funds shall be granted by Parliament to provide work for unemployed women."

LABOUR WAR COMMITTEE.

The London Labour War Emergency Committee has passed a resolution calling for the abolition of 10s. a week as the maximum wage to be paid to women employed in the Queen's workrooms, and demanding a wage of 5d. an hour. This resolution has been sent to the authorities concerned.

HE DOES NOT READ THE DREADNOUGHT!

A correspondent has sent us the following letter from Sir John Bethel, who evidently does not read either the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT or the paragraphs in the Daily Press referring to the rates of wages paid in the Queen's Workrooms. In future we ought to make a point of seeing that the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT reaches Sir John Bethel week by week. Who will pay for us to send him a free copy?

House of Commons,
November 3rd, 1914.

Dear Sir,

Replying to your letter of the 29th ultimo, I am doing all I can to assist women to obtain employment. As you are no doubt aware, Committees have been formed in each Local Government district for providing employment for women, but I am not aware that the maximum rate of wage has been fixed at 10s. 0d. per week, which is quite insufficient.

I think you might write a letter to the Secretary of Queen Mary's Fund and strongly protest against the rate of wage which you state the Committee have adopted. I feel sure that the subscribers to the Fund would not approve the action of the Committee in paying such a miserable wage as 10s. 0d. per week.

With reference to persons who have Government Contracts, they are bound to pay Trade Union rate of wages and observe Trade Union conditions, and if you can give me any definite information that any person engaged on Government Contracts is paying men or women less than Trade Union rates I will bring the matter before the Department concerned and do all I can to compel the Contractor to comply with the terms of his contract.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN HENRY BETHEL.

The Central Committee on Women's Employment has arranged to establish an industry for fruit pulping, vegetable drying, and fruit bottling in the West of England; they also intend to employ women on fruit, vegetable and flower growing at Radlet, in Hertfordshire. This latter scheme has been originated by Mr. R. Phillimore, who is supplying the land. In the winter the women are to be taught subsidiary industries such as basket making. This is a good scheme, but we trust that the women are not to be employed at the sweated rates which obtain in the Queen's workrooms established by the same Committee. To start new industries on a sweated basis would be a national disaster!

THE ANTI-SWEATING LEAGUE?

On October 23, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst sent the following letter to Mr. Runciman, President of the Board of Trade, and to the Press:—

Sir,—When the deputation from the East London Federation of the Suffragettes waited upon you on September 2, the question of the sweating of women who are making shirts for the army was raised. You expressed great interest in the question, and told Mrs. Parsons, who raised the matter, that you would do all in your power to prevent the sweating. You especially asked me to supply you with information of any such cases, saying that if I would do so I should be giving the Board of Trade very valuable help.

Since that interview I have many times written both to the Board of Trade and to the War Office in regard to the sweating of women employed on army contracts, both in making soldiers' shirts and other garments, and also when employed as brushmakers and packers and preparers of provisions for the troops. I now receive the following reply:—

"Madam,—I am directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of October 14, with enclosure addressed to the President, on the subject of rate of wages paid by a sub-contractor for machining army shirts, and, in reply, to say that no minimum rates have been fixed for the branch of trade in question. The Shirtmaking Trade Board (Great Britain) have given notice of certain minimum rates of wages which they propose to fix, but it is not known whether, after considering objections to the rates, they will adhere to the proposals, and at the present time no such rates are in operation.—I am, madam, your obedient servant,

"G. S. BARNES."

In substance, I take the letter to mean that you cannot, will not, and do not care to do anything to prevent the sweating of working women who are executing orders for the Government through the medium of contractors and sub-contractors. This being the case, to reply to us as you did when we saw you was dishonest in the extreme.—Yours faithfully,

SYLVIA PANKHURST.

The *Manchester Guardian* published the letter and added the following footnote:—

A representative of the *Manchester Guardian* yesterday called at the offices of the Anti-Sweating League and received the following statement as to the allegations contained in Miss Pankhurst's lelter:—

"While undoubtedly the payments in some cases leave a good deal to be desired, general statements as to the sweating of Government work should be taken with reserve. What is happening now is that a great many women who previously never made army clothing of any kind are being employed in factories where this kind of work is done. Naturally they are finding the work new and strange, and in consequence their earnings are inadequate. In some of the cases in which sweating is alleged the piece price paid is relatively so good that girls engaged upon it in well-equipped power-driven factories are earning 40s. a week and upwards.

"As a matter of fact the prices being paid for Government work are in general good, but such a statement assumes that the work is made up in factories properly equipped for such work. Any case in which a competent woman employed on Government clothing does not earn in the neighbourhood of 20s. a week should be reported to the Anti-Sweating League, and inquiry will be made. Any good worker used to the particular kind of work should be able to earn that wage without any difficulty, and if she has any exceptional skill she could earn a good deal more."

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst then wrote to the *Manchester Guardian*:

My reply to this statement is most emphatically that it is not my experience. I am constantly writing to the War Office to notify cases of sweating by Government contractors in this district.

I will not take up your space by giving a complete list of these, but will refer only to the women and girls who are making army brushes at Messrs. G. B. Kent's factory, Victoria Park, London, E. In this case I have seen the wage-books and pay-envelopes, and there was no possibility of mistake, because in the weeks in which the workers had been employed on army contracts the books are marked with a broad arrow, in order that they may be distinguishable by the firm and by the workers. Women are paid at 1s. 2d. a dozen for making the army brushes, which for quick workers comes out at a little over 2½d. an hour. They work from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the factory, and take the work home with them to do at night.

One young woman, who had worked five years at precisely this kind of work in the same factory and was considered extraordinary quick, earned 11s. 1d. in one week. Three shillings' worth of this work was done after she left the factory at night. She worked at home till 10 p.m. each evening. She had earned more than any of the others.

Of the rest, one who had worked at this sort of work for three years earned 7s. 4d., one had earned 7s. 5d., 1s. 3d. of which had been done at home. The fingers of these workers, especially the little fingers, were sore and disfigured with the wire. Some of them will never be able to straighten their fingers again. A large proportion had sore eyes through working so long at dark coloured bristles. One girl, who had worked 4½ years at the trade, had specially sore eyes. These were all hand drawers. The bristles are supplied them all roughly tumbled together, lying this way and that, so that the workers have to pick out from the mass a certain quantity and pat and push these into a neat little bundle. Around this bundle they twist wire, push it into a hole in the wooden brush back, and fasten off with wire behind. One hundred and sixty three of these bundles must be made, pushed into the brush, and fixed for 1d.

Outworkers employed by the same factory have to do the same work, and are only paid 1s. 1d. a dozen. Machine drawers in the same factory are paid 9d. a dozen for making similar brushes. The quickest worker in the factory, who has been at this sort of work for many years, earns up to 12s. or 13s. on army work. She is specially intelligent and alert and quite a leader amongst the others. A younger woman, whose work is considered well above the average, earned from 8s. 6d. to 9s. The machine drawers only work during the factory hours; therefore, though their wages are not very much greater, they are less badly off than the hand drawers, because they are not obliged to sit working at home far into the night.

Here is an absolutely authentic case of sweating. It is but one of many others which have come to my notice.

The question of sweating by army contractors in East London was raised recently on the Stepney Borough Council. The Public Health Committee reported that War Office contractors in the district paid 2s. 9d. and 2s. 4d. for making soldiers' jackets, 3s. 3d. for overcoats, and 10d. for trousers.

Writing to the *Liverpool Post* on October 9, Mr. H. D. Roberts, the chairman of the Liverpool Anti-Sweating League, a branch of the same organisation whose representative you have quoted, states that skilled women are making kitbags at 25 per cent. less than the minimum tailoring rates under the Trade Board Acts.

These facts clearly demonstrate that the sweating of women employed by army contractors is serious and extensive. Mr. Robert's letter proves, unfortunately, that it is not confined to East London. I must repeat, as I did in my letter to the President of the Board of Trade, that to promise to remedy the grievance of the women who are sweated by army contractors and to ask our organisation to supply the necessary information was exceedingly dishonest if the letter which was sent to us from the Board of Trade signed "G. S. Barnes" is a correct interpretation of the attitude of the Board in this matter.

It is important that the public should awake to this question of the sweating of women workers by Government contractors.—Yours, etc.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

The *Manchester Guardian* published Miss Pankhurst's reply, and added this footnote:—

Miss Pankhurst's letter has been shown by a London representative of the *Manchester Guardian* to an official of the Anti-Sweating League, who makes the following comment:—"Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's original statements were based upon the payments alleged to be made in respect of army clothing, as to which the comment then made can be substantiated. It is not the tradition of the Anti-Sweating League to say that any payment is sufficient, and the League emphatically does not endorse the payments quoted in Miss Pankhurst's second letter as current in Stepney for the making of soldiers' jackets, greatcoats, and trousers. The point to note is that these payments will be better or worse according as the clothing is being made in well-organised and well-equipped factories or in places without good organisation and equipment. It can certainly be said that the rates quoted, whether bad or good, are better than those current for the same work in time of peace. The statement made on behalf of the Anti-Sweating League that on the prices being paid for Government work any competent woman accustomed to army work should be able to earn at least twenty shillings a week is a very moderate one, and particulars of cases in which such rates are not being earned by such workers will be promptly attended to if Miss Pankhurst will forward them. Miss Pankhurst has so far produced no case in which women making army clothing are found to be receiving sweated rates of pay.

"Nothing was said by the representative of the Anti-Sweating League with regard to brushes, a trade in which there is as yet no trade board in existence. Undoubtedly very wretched rates of payment prevail in this trade, which has lately been the subject of reports by the Women's Industrial Council and others. If the facts are as serious as appears from Miss Pankhurst's statement, they should be at once communicated to the Director of Contracts at the War Office."

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's statements were not based on Army clothing merely, but on all Government contracts. It is strange that the report of the Public Health Department of the Stepney Borough Council and by Mr. H. D. Roberts, Chairman of the Liverpool Anti-Sweating League, receive such scant consideration from the London Anti-Sweating League. In regard to the statements quoted which relate to Kent's brush factory, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst had already sent these to the Director of Army Contracts, and prior to this correspondence facts had already reached the Anti-Sweating League through the medium of Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., to whom they were given by Miss Pankhurst.

MORE NEXT WEEK.

How the Heads of the War Office work.

(Extract from a conversation with one who knows them well.)

"They go down to their office with the greatest pomposity about ten o'clock in their motor cars, and leave again about four, and say how busy they are. If some of us were to work like that, we should have to shut up!"

RELIEF IN WEST HAM.

Alderman J. R. Hurry, J.P., member of the West Ham Mayor's Committee, who is working for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, says: "I don't suppose more than one woman in 20 is receiving the full amount that she is entitled to from the War Office." He quoted the case of a sergeant's wife with three children, who, instead of receiving 27s. 6d., was only getting 18s. 6d. Alderman Hurry stated that many naval and fleet reservists wives, whose allowances were due on October 1, had not yet received these allowances.

The Government had given the assurance that on the death of a soldier, sailor or marine, the same separation allowance to which they were entitled during his lifetime will be paid to the wives and orphans. Alderman Hurry says: "We have a number of cases in West Ham where the separation allowance has been stopped immediately on the decease of the husband."

SHALL THEY BE TURNED OUT?

A case was heard by Judge Smyly, K.C., at Bow County Court, in which the defendant said if it had not been for the war he would have paid his rent. In eight weeks he had only had 2½ days work. He had three sons at the war, and one had been killed in action. His wife was ill, and he had to support five grandchildren, whose father was in Australia, and he had not heard from him since the outbreak of the war.

His Honour: Perhaps you could apply to some society to help you.

Defendant: I have never had a farthing from charity.

His honour said he would give defendant as long as he could. If his wife was ill after 21 days, he must get a certificate to that effect.

Only the wife's illness has preserved this family from eviction. Yet Mr. John Burns told the E.L.F.S. deputation that no one would be turned out!

What is to be done about it?

Who will help?

Do not allow your neighbours to be turned out!

Do not cringe to the landlord. Do not starve your children to pay the rent!

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.

Miss Gallop 1.0, Mr. Jarvis 1.0, The Misses Lewisohn 40.0.0, Half collection Walthamstow 1.5.0, Mrs. Buckley 5.0, A Friend 1.0, Miss Ada Frisby 10.0, Mrs. Vatcher 5.0, Mrs. Taylor (fortnightly) 5.0, L. B .4.6, Mr. and Mrs. Merrick 1.10.0, Mrs. Lancaster 10.0.

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS: Miss Fedden 1.0, Miss N. C. Morrison 2.6, Mrs. Gulick 1.0.0, Miss Phillips 11.4½, Mrs. A. Moore 10.0, Mrs. Kummer 3.0, per Mr. Clark 5.0, Mrs. A. C. Wilson 5.0, per Mr. Chandler 2.0, Anon. 10.0, Miss Pelly 1.0.0, Miss Yeoman (weekly) 10.0, Mrs. A. Newman 3.0, Miss Eva Chapman 5.0, Mrs. J. D. Beresford 5.0, Anon. 5.0, Mrs. Singer (instead of to the Prince of Wales's Fund) 1.1.0, Miss D. Henry 1.0, Harry Groves, Esq. 2.6, Miss H. E. Raisin (monthly) 10.0, Miss May Sanderson 2.6, Anon. 5.0, Mrs. J. Drake-Leakey 2.2.0, Miss Buchanan 2.6, Miss Di Benningfield 1.0.0, Cuckoo 1.6, Anon. 5.0.0, Charles Hick, Esq. 5.0.0, Miss Robinson 10.0, Miss Crombie 1.0.0, Anon. 5.0.0, Mrs. Lacey Scott 2.6, Miss Hilda Layton 4.0, Misses Gliksten 14.0, Miss Gulick 5.0, Misses Grant 2.0.0, Miss Maude Burgess 5.0, Mrs. Singer (monthly) 10.0, Mrs. Richmond (weekly) 5.0, Anon. 10.0, R.H.E.H. 10.0, H. A. Johnson, Esq. 10.0, Miss F. Jones 2.0, Miss E. C. Haig 13.0, Miss Rock 1.0, Mrs. Cook 0.6, G. Brown, Esq. 1.6, Mrs. C. C. Cooke 12.0, Miss Jessie Smith 2.0, Mrs. C. Le Mage 2.6. Collected: Miss Watts 18.10, Miss Marks 15.5½, Mrs. Bird 7.3, M. P. 7.0, D. P. 7.8, Miss Ivy Parsons 4.10½, Miss Penn 0.8, Two Friends 1.5.

BABIES' HOODS—Miss Hopwood.

CLOTHES—Mrs. Churchill, Miss Jackson, Miss Norah Picton, Anon., Miss Davies, Hon. E. Haverfield, Mrs. Harverson, Miss E. Thompson, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Ward-Higgs.

EGGS—Miss A. L. Durham.

APPLES—A Friend.

BABIES' GARMENTS, OINTMENT—Miss D. Henry.

DEPENDENTS OF UNMARRIED SOLDIERS.

The Government has at last issued its scale of Separation Allowances for dependents of soldiers who are either unmarried or are widowers.

The highest total amount to which the Government will contribute for the dependents of these men where the soldier has no children is 12s. 6d. in the case of a private or corporal, 15s. for a sergeant, 16s. 6d. for a colour-sergeant, 22s. for a quarter-master-sergeant, and 23s. for a warrant officer.

The following table shows how much of his pay a private soldier or corporal must allot if he wishes the dependent to receive what he gave in peace, or part of it:—

Amount paid weekly by private soldier or corporal before enlistment, etc.		Amount which private soldier must give from his pay.
s. d.	s. d.	d.
	Not exceeding 3 0	.. .. 1 a day.
Over 3 0 but	" " 5 0	.. .. 2 "
" 5 0 "	" " 7 6	.. .. 3 "
" 7 6 "	" " 9 6	.. .. 4 "
" 9 6 "	" " 11 6	.. .. 5 "
" 11 6 "	" " 13 6	.. .. 6 "
" 13 6 "	" " 15 6	.. .. 7 "
" 15 6 "	" " 17 6	.. .. 8 "
" 17 6 "	(Maximum) 20 0	(Maximum) .. .. .. 9 "

The following table gives the same information for higher rank (serjeants to warrant officers):—

Amount paid weekly by soldier before enlistment, etc.		Amount which soldier must give from his pay.
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
	Not exceeding 2 6	.. .. 0 1 a day.
Over 2 6 but	" " 4 0	.. .. 0 2 "
" 4 0 "	" " 5 6	.. .. 0 3 "
" 5 6 "	" " 7 0	.. .. 0 4 "
" 7 0 "	" " 8 6	.. .. 0 5 "
" 8 6 "	" " 10 0	.. .. 0 6 "
" 10 0 "	" " 11 6	.. .. 0 7 "
" 11 6 "	" " 13 0	.. .. 0 8 "
" 13 0 "	" " 14 6	.. .. 0 9 "
" 14 6 "	" " 16 0	.. .. 0 10 "
" 16 0 "	" " 17 6	.. .. 0 11 "
" 17 6 "	" " 19 0	.. .. 1 0 "
" 19 0 "	" " 20 6	.. .. 1 1 "
" 20 6 "	" " 22 6	.. .. 1 2 "
" 22 0 "	" " 23 6	.. .. 1 3 "
" 23 6 "	(Maximum) 25 0	(Maximum) .. .. 1 4 "

If the soldier made only a small allowance during peace and would like now to pay more to his dependents, he can make a larger contribution from his pay, but the Government contribution will not be correspondingly increased. The leaflet issued by the War Office gives the following example:—

If a soldier paid only 6s. a week during peace, that will be the largest amount to which the Government will contribute, and to get it the soldier will have to give 3d. a day. If he gives 6d. a day, 7s. 9d. will be the weekly amount payable.

The Government contribution being 4s. 3d. in each case. The Government in no case contributing more than the maximum amounts already stated, except where there are children of the soldier in the care of the dependents.

If there are children of the soldier in care of the dependents, a higher amount may be issued providing the soldier paid as much in time of peace up to a limit 20s. for a private or corporal and 25s. for higher ranks.

If there are children of the soldier who are being paid for at the motherless rate of 3s.* a week elsewhere, the separation allowance to other dependents will be reduced by 6d. a week for each child. Thus an allowance to a soldier's mother of 12s. 6d. would become 10s. 6d., if her four little grandchildren should be living with a maried daughter. The War Office circular adds:—

When a soldier has been the sole support of a woman who would otherwise be destitute, the *full* allotment as for a wife and children must be made by the soldier if he wishes any payment to be made to her and and to any children of his in her charge. When the full allotment is made, the Government will contribute the full separation as for a wife and children.

The full allotments for a wife and children are as follows:—

Soldiers not below the rank of serjeant—Wife, 5s. 10d. a week, with 1s. 2d. for each child, up to a maximum of 9s. 4d.

Other soldiers—Wife 3s. 6d. per week, with 7d. for each child, up to a maximum of 5s. 3d.

In the case of the soldier's "unmarried wife," the Government allowance will stop if the soldier even *reduces* the allowance. This is a pecularly mean provision, now that the War Office is inviting every man who is legally married to reduce his allotment, because it is held that he cannot pay for his washing and other extras out of the 3d. a day, which is all that is left to him when the full separation allowance is paid.

*Another circular issued by the War Office puts the motherless rate at 3s. 7d. Which is correct?

In the case of the legally married wives the War Office is sending the following letter, in many cases it is asserted, without the husband having made any representations whatsoever:

"Madam,—Your husband has represented that, in view of his own expenses and requirements, he finds himself unable to continue the allotment to you of (amount inserted) a day out of his pay. Your separation allowance of (amount inserted) week will not be altered, and it is thought that you may find yourself sufficiently well off not to claim from your husband a share of his pay."

The result is that many married men have already reduced their allotments, and the very fact that they have done so, will make it harder for the man who has an "unmarried wife" dependent on him to manage on a meagre 3d. a day.

Thus, in order to secure the maintenance of his children and their mother, greater self denial is demanded of the man who, by not marrying, has perhaps shown that he is most lacking in those qualities. The precarious position of the woman and children with no legal claim is rendered more difficult and uncertain. Surely the War Office should be induced to drop this promise as to the *full allotment* which is only enforced in these most helpless cases!

Payments will be made weekly through the Post Office as in the case of soldiers wives.

The War Office states:—"It will be some time before the first payment can be made as each case has to be verified."

No claim to these allowances will be good unless it can be proved that the soldier did actually keep, or help to keep, the person claiming.

Soldiers already serving will get a form of application from the Commanding Officer, and if they are serving at home, the application should come from them.

Recruits if unmarried will similarly get a form of application from their Commanding Officer on joining for duty.

Dependents of soldiers serving at home should apply to the soldiers to make a claim on their behalf.

Any letters about these allowances should state plainly the name and address of sender, and full name, regimental number, battalion and regiment of soldier.

The *Daily Citizen* is demanding £1 a week for the wife, mother or widow of every soldier or sailor fighting or killed in the War, and £1 a week for every soldier or sailor permanently maimed by fighting.

The London Executive of the League of Young Liberals has passed a resolution asking that the Government shall give compensation to soldiers and their dependents, at least equal to that provided under the Workmen's Compensation Act. The floors of Hell are said to be paved with good Intentions. Will the League of Young Liberals see that their party gets it done?

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW AND BROMLEY.

Organiser—Mrs. WATKINS.
321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

Lots of dolls are waiting to be dressed for the Children's Party. Will you all come along and help to dress them at the meetings on Fridays and Mondays? Who will volunteer to help at the stall, Friday and Saturday? It is only for a few hours altogether. If a few members would take a turn for one hour or even for half an hour it would make things much easier for those who do the whole time. Who will take the paper and collecting boxes to any railway station regularly once a week?

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Oct. 30:—
Bow and Bromley 184. Mrs. Payne, 93.

DISTRIBUTED.

Mrs. Knudson and Mrs. McCheyne, 350; Mrs. Connell and Mrs. Moore, 250; Mrs. Savoy, 250; Mrs. Carlisle, 200; Mrs. Morris, 200; Mrs. Clarke, 200; Mrs. Mantle, 200; Mrs. Pascoe, 100; Mrs. Lake, 100.

POPLAR.

DREADNOUGHT *Secretary*, Mrs. BIRD, 20 Railway Street.

Distress Secretary, Mrs. DRAKE.

Progress is being made, eight new members being enrolled! This is the way to make Poplar what it ought to be—the strongest in the Federation.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst gave us a visit on Tuesday. It was decided to have a work party on Tuesday night to make presents to give to the children at a Christmas party. Will members please turn up in good numbers? Thanks to Mr. Gray for his address, and to Mrs. Drake for filling the speaker's place on Friday afternoon last.

The *Dreadnought* being very interesting this week, it behoves members to make special efforts to sell.

95 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending Oct. 29 Distributed—Mr. Churcher 400, Master J. Crutchfield 600, Masters R. & G. Bird with *Dreadnought* Secretary 900.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. DAISY PARSONS, 94 Ravenscroft Road.

Organiser: Miss MARY PHILLIPS, Centre for Tidal Basin and Custom House—14 Butchers' Road.

Meetings have again been good and enthusiastic. Mrs. Walker's speech at the "Peacock" was much appreciated. In connection with the new work that is being opened up in Custom House district, a public meeting will be held in the Custom House School, Freemason's Rd., on Friday of next week—November 13th, at 8 p.m., at which Miss Sylvia Pankhurst has promised to speak. Everyone, please make a note of date, and bring friends. We cannot afford to spend money on advertising, but the best kind of advertising—the personal appeal—costs nothing. So we rely on members to practise this, and to give Miss Pankhurst a warm welcome on her first visit to Custom House. Friends from a distance may be glad of the information that a "Docks" car from Balaam Street, Barking Rd., takes them to the door of the school for ½d.

The milk centre goes well, and the number of people to be helped increases. We hope Mrs. Davies, who so kindly came before to see and advise about the babies, will be able to come again shortly.

More *Dreadnought* sellers and collectors are wanted, especially those who could go out on Saturday (about midday) to the gates of Docks and factories. Please let us have names in good time, so that we can make up a party next Saturday.

Dreadnoughts sold last week, 102.

PRISONER'S WRITINGS.

Lend a Hand is a newspaper, edited and published by the inmates of the State Prison of Oregon, U.S.A. Some of the articles are taken from magazines, some are specially contributed by people interested in prisons, but the majority are written by those who are actually in prison.

Running through almost all the prisoners' writings is a constant protest against the cruel competitive struggle for existence in which so many individuals begin life, handicapped from the start.

"The revised rules of this prison are being prepared, and are worthy the perusal of all the inmates. It is gradually working round to where a convict has to work out his own salvation—get busy."

So runs one of the paragraphs, but there is a bitter humour in the following:—

GAME LAWS.

Game may be hunted in Oregon in following seasons:—

Deer, in the Winter.
Quail, in the fall.
Duck, in the fall.
Convicts, no closed season.

"Another Escape!" so the inscription under a tragic little drawing by one of the prisoners, showing a group of convicts in their striped dress, carrying out a coffin through a door in a thick high wall, whilst a sentry, with his rifle, watches from above. This drawing is attached to the obituary notice of a boy of 22 who refused to disclose his name and died in the prison hospital from "injuries received at the asylum farm."

On the same page are the following verses, written by an inmate of the San Quentin State Prison of California, and sent to the Editor of *Lend a Hand* by a Washington lady.

THE PRISON GRAVEYARD.

From Prisoner No. 24218, San Quentin State Prison of California.

Here at the foot of this barren hill
Where the tangled grasses and wild weeds creep;
In serried files 'neath whitewashed slabs
The silent dead of the prison sleep.
How utterly vain were their anguished prayers;
How vain were the scalding tears they shed;
They drank the cup of its bitter dregs,
And their forms were laid with the convict dead.
No soothing hand to assuage the pain;
No loving kiss when the end was nigh;
No gentle voice in a last farewell
And with dearth of these it was hard to die.
No marble urn nor sculptured tomb
To tell what battles through life were fought.
A number less on the prison roll,
A soul effaced through the realms of thought.
Were these erring lives all lived in vain
Whose only goal was a grave of shame?
Were they fated thus by God's decree?
Then whose the fault and where the blame?
Drifting about like a derelict
With rudder broken and main mast gone,
Flying the signal of dire distress
Fighting the tide that carried them on.
And where was the profit and whose the gain
When these wrecks were shattered upon the reef?
Ye 'Holier than thou' with pious mien
Do these desolate graves bring you sweet relief?
Know ye not that perchance on some future day
A boyish hand from your own may slip,
To nestle not in thy palm again,
Whose feet to a grave like this may trip?
Their's were souls in the making yet,
With the deeper lessons of life unlearned;
The chords in their heart were still untouched,
And passions of youth in their breast still burned.
They gave not a thought to the universe,
They had not heard of God's great plan,
The only lesson their hard life taught,
Was man's inhumanity to man.
May these lonely mounds on this barren hill
Serve as signposts on the way,
Revealing the need of our fellow men,
Guiding us on to that future day—
When the children of earth standing hand in hand
Shall drink of the fountain of truth and see
The glorious dawn so long foretold
The brotherhood of humanity.

A new constitution is being drawn up by the United States Congress for the Phillipine Islands. A fierce discussion is taking place as to whether the Phillipine women shall vote. It is said that they are "the best men on the Islands."

"With all the progress that has been possible through education and the refining influence of society, men still rise up at the behest of one individual and go forth to destroy other men against whom they have no bitterness. This will continue until we cease to admire destruction instead of construction. I would give more for one Edison than a hundred Napoleons. The real heroes in every war have been the mothers. This condition of affairs will end only when republics fulfill their destinies in the proper sense. In other words, war will cease when woman have equal rights with men. When she has a voice and vote on the question of war or peace, wars will end."—The Mayor of Boston on Columbus Day.

ADVICE TO LARGE FAMILIES.

The maximum scale of relief now to be adopted by Local Representative Committees all over the country makes the *total family earnings up to* £1, irrespective of the size of the family (if more than four children), or the fact that some of them are adults. Take the case of a man (unemployed) with a wife and seven children where the eldest son and daughter are "adults," earning at present 10s. and 3s. respectively. If all live together the maximum relief doled out to them will be 7s. (i.e. £1 for four adults and five children). If the son and the daughter who are earning each take a single room at 2s. and 3s. respectively, the increased rent would be 5s., but the relief would be £1 7s. instead of 7s., a net gain of 15s. For now the man, wife, and five children would get £1 relief and the girl would get 7s. to make her earnings up to 10s!

Or take another case we know of—that of a widow with four girls, three of them adults. Living together they will get £1. If the three girls live together in another house (paying 6s. rent) they will get 19s. The widow and her remaining child will get 12s., a net gain of 5s.

Cases can be multiplied indefinitely—it is a mere matter of arithmetic. Broadly speaking any wage-earning boy or girl in a family where there are more than four children will best help their families and themselves by living away from home. The family cannot get more than £1, and if their leaving home does not affect the claim to this maximum the mother will have "one less mouth to feed," while the boys and girls will probably get more food by having 10s. to themselves for food and rent than by continuing to live at home and having their share of the food obtainable after rent has been deducted from the £1.

This conclusion is much to be regretted. It is a pity that families should be broken up, but it is worse that people should be left to starve on a totally inadequate scale of "relief," coupled with a system of inspection which the victims resent on pain of absolute starvation. The responsibility is with those who have framed a scale of relief which from every point of view—even from that of economy if a far-sighted view be taken—is utterly indefensible.

WHAT ABOUT THE MEN?

"Always restrict and punish the women, let the men do as they please" sums up the general line of conduct adopted by the Government whenever morals and manners are offended. Therefore as a result of a consultation between the Commissioner of Police, Alderman Edward Johnson, the Chairman of the London Central Board of Trade Protection Societies and Mr. Frank P. Whitbread of the London Brewer's Council—all men, be it noted—it was agreed that all licensees should be asked, on and from Monday next, not to serve women with intoxicating liquors for consumption on or off the premises before 11.30 a.m.

If those who have decided on this course believe it to be in the public interest, why are they not enforcing the order in the case of men as well as in that of women?

It is because the Government are afraid to do so in case the men voters should be annoyed!

If such an order is necessary, it is more necessary in the case of men than of women, for statistics show that there are at least five drunken men to every drunken woman.

Messrs. Johnson and Whitbread know the relative proportion of intoxicants consumed by men and women, and no doubt they agreed to this proposal because they know that it will make little difference to the liquor trade which they represent.

But, though we believe that this order will effect but a small proportion of women, we are strongly opposed to it, because we regard it as another dangerous precedent for interferring, without the consent of the womanhood of the nation, with the freedom of women to come and go as they please and to organise their lives as they will. When women have the Vote, laws will be equal for men and women.

(continued from front page.)

Poplar Committee were to lead the way in this matter, other Committees, which had adopted scales higher than that put forward by the Central authorities, would follow suit, and the Central authorities would be obliged to revise their scale. It was objected by some of those present that the Central authorities would refuse grants to Poplar, and Miss Pankhurst, therefore, added to her resolution, "That until the Central Committee has agreed to our scale, we collect our own funds." Mr. Lansbury seconded this resolution. In the discussion that followed Mr. St. John Hutchinson, the L.C.C. member for the borough, moved that we adopt the Central Committee's scale, but strongly urged them to extend the maximum limit of 20s. to 25s. for a family, and the rate of 1s. 6d. a week for a child to 2s. Mr. Lansbury then asked Miss Pankhurst to withdraw her resolution, but she refused, on the ground that a mere verbal protest would make no difference. Mr. Lansbury, however, withdrew his seconding of her motion, and it therefore fell to the ground.

Councillor Green then asked that the words *strongly urge* should be deleted from the resolution, in order that the Government might not be embarrassed. The country, he said, was in a very serious state, and people must not be led to think they could have *anything* they wanted. (Fortunately for Mr. Green he is one of those whose business prospers under the present state of affairs).

Mr. Hutchinson interrupted to say he would certainly take out the word 'strongly,' and eventually the resolution was carried.

The rest of the business was scrambled through with unseemly haste, most of it being referred to the General Purposes Committee. Communications from the Ward Committees were not read, and the minutes were not read. A resolution moved by Miss Pankhurst, "that the minutes and communications from Ward Committees be read as a matter of course at each meeting," fell to the ground without a seconder.

Nothing more will be done for some time unless the people of the borough will take vigorous action!

WOMEN IN NEW ZEALAND PARLIAMENT.

During the debate in the House of Representatives on the Reform Bill, which provided that members should be elected by proportional representation instead of being nominated, the House by a substantial majority inserted a clause making women eligible as members of the Council. The Legislative Council subsequently rejected the new clause. At a conference on the point the delegates of the Council offered, on behalf of the Upper House, to agree to admit women as soon as they were eligible for the Lower House. In order not to endanger the Bill the House managers agreed to this compromise, and the House has now endorsed the managers' action, an amendment moved by Sir J. J. G. Ward that the original clause be reinserted being negatived by 30 votes to 21.

We conclude that women will soon have been made eligible for the New Zealand Parliament,

In Australia there is already no legal bar to women entering Parliament. Mrs. Martel stood for election some ten years ago. Miss Vida Goldstein has twice been a candidate, and the *Australian Woman Voter*, which comes to our office weekly, reports the progress of her latest Parliamentary contest.

Dear Editor,—Having heard you were greatly in need of warm garments to clothe the babies in Bow, I am sending you down ten pairs of socks, which I hope may be of some use to you. Might I make one valuable suggestion about the distribution of the same? Would it not be a good plan to try to make these socks go as far as possible by giving only one to each baby? Surely it is better that say 20 babies should have one foot warmly clad rather than that only a few should have both feet warm? No doubt some kindly, philanthropic people, seeing their great need, would, out of the kindness of their hearts, provide the other sock in each case. And just think what a lot of children would be provided for.

Hoping that you may see your way to act upon my suggestion. "Half a loaf is better than none!"

I am yours truly—SARCAS.

Printed by E. H. Williams (Regd T.U.), 232 Devons Road, Bow, E., and Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, at their offices, 321 Roman Road, Bow, E.